

Andrew Jackson to Andrew Jackson, Jr., July 4, 1829, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

TO ANDREW JACKSON, JR.

Washington, July 4, 1829.

Dear Andrew, I have Just returned from my visit to Fortress Monroe, the Navy yard at Gosport etc and recd a letter from Colo. Charles J. Love of the 27th ult. advising me of the death of my negroman Jim, and the manner of it. I pray you my son to examine minutely into this matter, and if the death was produced by the cruelty of Mr Steel, have him forthwith discharged. But as you are young, advise with Col Love upon this matter. My negroes shall be treated humanely. When I employed Mr Steel, I charged him upon this subject, and had expressed in our agreement that he was to treat them with great humanity, feed and cloath 6 them well, and work them in moderation. if he has deviated from this rule, he must be discharged.

Since I left home I have lost three of my family. Old Ned, I expected to die, but I am fearful the death of Jack, and Jim, has been produced by exposure and bad treatment. Your Uncle John Donelson writes, that *Steel has ruled with a rod of iron* . This is so inconsistent to what I expected, that I cannot bear the inhumanity that he has exercised towards my poor negroes, contrary to his promise and has impaired my confidence in him. Unless he changes his conduct, dismiss him, and employ another.

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I write in haste that it may go by to nights mail and meet you at Nashville. Consult with Colo. Love and Doctor Hogg about Mr Steel and whether he ought to be discharged. I am your affectionate father